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sentient organism that can move constructively and positively toward real justice—industrial, religious, political. The basis of all such arguments by the author is that society must not arouse the resentment of individuals. Nowhere is there acceptance of an obligation to serve others or of a responsibility individual or social for current economic and industrial conditions. The philosophy of the pessimist is restated in such language as the following: "It is not society, however ill-organized, that has caused, or today causes, poverty. That is the primitive condition of the human race."

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FAGUET, ÉMILE. (Translation by Emily James Putnam.) *The Dread of Responsibility*. Pp. xv, 221. Price, \$1.25. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914.

This work is a suggestive interpretation of French character and its social causes and results. The dread of responsibility is held to be the fundamental characteristic of the French people. "They want to be irresponsible. They form their ideas of law in accordance with this design; they organize and practice their professions to this end; they have a family life governed by this thought; they have a social life controlled by this principle" (Preface).

By a detailed description of the French legal system the author attempts to show the irresponsibility of the judges, the irresponsibility of the jury, and the irresponsibility of the criminal. These irresponsibilities enervate justice and make France "a country where the most complete security . . . is that of criminal" (p. 102). In family life the dread of responsibility limits the numbers of children and withholds from them vital knowledge in their adolescent years. In professional life the French strive to enter the service of the state where risk and responsibility are at a minimum. Political customs and the constitution divide responsibility, subdivide it, disperse it, scatter it until it cannot be located anywhere. Such are the results of the dread of responsibility in French life, legal, social, professional, and political.

The reason for the existence of this irresponsibility in political life is the democratic government of France, a government tending toward an absolute democracy—the first principle of which is "absolute equality and next that responsibility be lodged nowhere . . . ." (p. 180). The remedy for this situation is a government by an aristocracy, under democratic forms—an aristocracy with social capacity and social responsibility, having a responsive and coöperative appreciation by the people.

It is interesting to note the similarity between the author's account of the political problems of the French and their remedies and our own American problems and remedies under different conditions. The failure of criminal law under the French inquisitorial system is as striking as the failure of our own. The scattered political responsibility described by the author is a vexing problem in American political life, as well as the French. The author holds that the solution in France is government by an aristocracy under democratic forms. American government is exhibiting a tendency to return to concentrated responsibility.

City government by commission and the advocacy of the reduction of elective officers in state government are notable examples.

To appreciate fully the value of the book a thorough knowledge of French life would be necessary. But even to the ordinary reader it is full of stimulus and suggestion in that it shows the way in which the intimate life and character of a people lie at the basis of its peculiar political and social problems.

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FLEXNER, BERNARD AND BALDWIN, ROGER N. *Juvenile Courts and Probation.*

Pp. xii, 308. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Century Company, 1914.

Few matters of public policy have assumed so quickly a place of importance in popular thinking as that of the juvenile court since its organization in Chicago in July, 1899. The movement spread rapidly in this country and in Europe and developed a great diversity both as to concepts and as to methods of administration. Efforts to standardize procedure have made slow progress. The reason for this has been a diversity both of ideals and of conditions in different states and countries. The literature which the movement has produced has been, in the main, fragmentary and has dealt with specific aspects of the subject. In the present volume, the authors have attempted for the first time a thoroughgoing intensive study and statement of the whole subject in concise form and have produced a text-book of the juvenile court and its necessary accompaniment, probation. Beginning with Part I we have a short history of the juvenile court movement together with a discussion of its underlying principles. Part II deals with a detailed and analytical analysis of the organization and procedure of the court throughout the United States. In addition we have the best concurrent opinion of what an ideal procedure should be. Part III considers probation in the same manner, giving valuable suggestions as to the best methods of organizing and conducting probation. Part IV criticises methods and statistics, emphasizing the value of both in securing adequate results. In Part V many pages of sample forms are presented with criticisms and suggestions. The appendix contains drafts of laws and rules representing the best examples of procedure so far incorporated in the codes of the various states, and finally a lengthy selected reference list of the most valuable sources of information. The volume is the report of the special committee on Juvenile Courts and their Administration appointed by the National Probation Association, and is endorsed by the entire committee consisting of Bernard Flexner, Roger Baldwin, Ben B. Lindsey, Julian W. Mack, Julia C. Lathrop, Homer Folks, Maud E. Miner, Edwin Mulready and Arthur W. Towne.

The book should be accessible to every social student and social worker, whose interest in any way touches this important subject.

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FREEMAN, ARNOLD. *Boy Life and Labour.* Pp. xiii, 252. Price, 3s. 6p. London: P. S. King and Son, 1914.

This volume is the result of a year of intensive investigation into the lives of seventy-one working-class boys of the city of Birmingham, England. The